which provide a conducive breeding ground for cockroaches/rodents etc. Though it is difficult to completely eliminate these, adequate measures have been initiated to control the infestation in coaches. Intensive cleaning followed up by spraying of pesticides, application of gel/chemicals, laying of glue pads, traps etc. are carried out regularly in coaches for cockroach and rodent control. For most of the trains, this activity has been outsourced to the professional/specialized agencies in the field and for the rest, Pest/Rodent control is carried out departmentally. Due care is exercised to ensure that only those chemicals/ pesticides, which are approved by the Central Insecticide Board, are used for the treatment.

Modernisation and expansion plan of SAIL

2089. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has urged the SAIL to expedite execution of its modernisation and expansion plans to meet the growing demand for steel;

(b) if so, whether Government has approved SAIL's plans for Rs. 350 crores capacity expansion;

(c) whether the projects involving Rs. 17,300 crores investment plan have been prepared by the SAIL; and

(d) if so, by what time these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) As per Steel Authority India Ltd. (SAIL)'s Corporate Plan, the expansion and modernization programme was originally planned to be completed by 2012. On the basis of discussion held during review meetings by the Ministry of Steel, the schedules have been compressed so as to expedite the completion of the Expansion Plans of the SAIL Plants/ Units.

SAIL proposes to modernize and expand capacity of its plants to increase production of hot metal from the present level of 14.6 million tonnes per annum (2006-07) to about 26 million tonnes per annum at a present indicative cost of Rs. 53,000 crore, in respect of the expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant, Durgapur Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Plant, IISCO Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant. The Expansion Plan of SAIL Plants/Units is planned to be completed progressively by 2010-11.

Production of steel

2090. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual steel production is abysmally short of targets laid successive Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that China's steel production has reached a level of about 460 MT while India is still struggling with a level of 45 MT;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Governments of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa have signed large number of MOU's with entrepreneurs for setting up of steel plants in the States in last two years and none has materialized on the ground of non-availability of raw material namely iron ore blocks; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Five Year Plans did not lay down any target of steel production.

(c) and (d) In 2006, the crude steel production of China and India was 423 MT and 49 MT respectively. A rapid growth in infrastructure development and indigenous capacity for production supported by strong and sustained growth in demand of steel, sustained GDP growth rate, availability of iron ore resource base, a very good reserve of low ash metallurgical coal and cheap capital funds provided by the State-owned banking sector has led the steel production in China to rise phenomenally. On the other hand, moderate growth in GDP, low investment rate, slow demand and restricted availability of cheap credit led Indian steel industry to lag behind the Chinese steel industry in spite of having resource base of iron ore and coal.

(e) and (f) State Governments of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa have signed a large number of MOUs with entrepreneurs for setting up of steel plants in the State in the last two years. The projects are at different stages of progress.

Steel plants in Orissa

2091. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has permitted any Indian or foreign company to put the steel plants in the Mayurbhanj district of Orissa, where there is not a single industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether his Ministry would find the possibility and plan to make any departmental survey for these kinds of proposals which are supporting the economically backward people of the district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) According to the new Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been delicensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the Public Sector subject to certain locational restrictions. Therefore, no permission is required for setting up steel plants and the entrepreneurs are free to set up the projects anywhere in the country based on their commercial judgement.

Regarding foreign companies, as per the Government's Policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% is permitted in the steel sector under the automatic route where no prior approval is required.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has so far been received from any Indian or foreign company/individual for setting up of steel plant in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa.